

Source Water Assessment & Protection Programs

The following are Strategic Measure Goals reported as of February 2009:

Percent of Community Water Systems (CWS) and population **with substantial strategy implementation** to achieve minimized risk to public health.

Total CWS/SWA for CWS - 23%, population protected 55%

WVDHHR has continued to work with local communities and public water systems to emphasize the development of protective strategies. In support of the set-aside goals, the state has provided ongoing training opportunities for water system operators thereby improving water system operation and ensuring compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). The state continues to successfully provide grants through the Source Water Protection Grants Program, to surface water and ground water community Public Water Systems (PWSs) to establish and implement water protection programs. The state has created a source water protection-tracking database which records completed protection activities and enhancements to SWAP/WHP assessments. WVDHHR has also built upon existing and new partnerships and inter-agency alliances in order to strengthen its drinking water program.

Highlights

- WVDHHR continues to participate in various educational and outreach activities such as presenting at and participating in the 2008 Karst Conference in Martinsburg, West Virginia and presenting at a course on the source water protection program and water wells for sanitarian training.
- WVDHHR continues to use Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology and Global Positioning System (GPS) data associated with public wells in order to support source water/wellhead protection.
- The Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) Program evaluates new PWS water wells or intakes to assure they are located in areas where contamination threats are minimal. Permits for new public water wells now require an initial survey for potential sources of contamination within 2,000 feet of proposed well location with site-specific information used when available.
- WVDHHR signed a contract with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WV DEP) and West Virginia Geological Survey to study the hydrologic flow in abandoned coal mines in McDowell County.

Action Items

- The state needs to continue working towards the national 2011 goal which states that 50% of CWS and associated population should be protected through substantial implementation of source water protection strategies.
- EPA would like to be kept informed on the continuing development of WVDHHR's secure website that will provide such information as public supply well location and wellhead and source water protection area information.

- EPA would like to be kept informed of final approval for Source Water Protection Technical Help Program (SWPTHP) program vendor contracts and contract work progress.

DWSRF SetAside Section of Report:

Wellhead Protection Program - 15% Local Assistance

The WV Wellhead Protection Program (WHPP), approved by EPA in 1992, is a key implementation program for source water protection.

Highlights

- WVDHHR issued three (3) WHPP grants totaling approximately \$35.4K.
- WVDHHR continues to support the WV DEP Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) by loaning groundwater models out for public education which includes a summer water workshop for educators and youth ages 5-18.

WVDHHR continues to partially fund the DEP Class V UIC program and maintain the SWAP website. The DEP UIC Class V program inspected 110 sites with 41 sites having underground injection systems with a combined total of 54 wells. The website contains fact sheets, new SWAP posters, general information and an online SWAP education course, entitled "A Guide to Developing a Source Water Protection Plan."